

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00727 171454Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 171124Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2803

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0727

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, NS

SUBJ: SURINAM REQUEST FOR INFO ON IMPROPER PAYMENTS

REF : PARAMARIBO 0671

1. ON AUGUST 16, 1976 AMBASSADOR RECEIVED BY MESSENGER
FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE THE FOLLOWING NOTE,
MARKED "SECRET":

"TO: HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

SECRET 217/76 AUGUST 14, 1976

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE HERewith SENDS
HIS COMPLIMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REQUEST HIS EXCELLENCY'S
ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:

REPORTS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED, BOTH IN THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL PRESS, PERTAINING TO SUSPICIONS THAT MONIES
SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAID OFF BY FUNCTIONARIES OF THE ALCOA
AND REYNOLDS ALUMINUM COMPANIES ESTABLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY
TO GOVERNMENT BODIES AND/OR HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN
SURINAM, SO AS TO INDUCE SAID OFFICIALS, IN CONNECTION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00727 171454Z

WITH AGREEMENTS TO BE CONCLUDED BY THEM, TO PERFORM

UNLAWFUL ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF EXISTING BUSINESS RELATIONS
OR RELATIONS TO BE ENTERED UPON (SO-CALLED PAY-OFF MONIES).
THE SAME ASSERTION IS MADE REGARDING THE ITT CONCERN,
FORMERLY ESTABLISHED IN THIS COUNTRY.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE HERewith REQUEST
THE AMBASSADOR, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE, TO INFORM
HIM WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT HIS EMBASSY CAN ASSIST HIM
IN SECURING SOME MATERIAL REGARDING THIS MATTER.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE AVAILS HIMSELF OF
THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED
STATES OF HIS HIGHEST ESTEEM.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE,
(SIGNED) E.A. HOOST
DR. E.A. HOOST"

2. ON RECEIPT, AMBASSADOR CALLED DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF
GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN DER GELD, WHO PROFESSED NO
KNOWLEDGE OF NOTE. AMBASSADOR TOLD VAN DER GELD THAT IT
WAS CUSTOMARY FOR FORMAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT
AND AN EMBASSY TO ISSUE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND HE NEEDED
TO KNOW IN THIS CASE WHETHER HOOST'S NOTE CONSTITUTED AN
OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SURINAM OR WAS
A PERSONAL REQUEST ON THE PART OF HOOST. VAN DER GELD
UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION AND INFORM THE
AMBASSADOR.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES NO RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE UNTIL
WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED WHETHER THIS IS AN OFFICIAL GOVERN-
MENT REQUEST OR NOT. IN THE EVENT THAT RESPONSE IS TO
EFFECT REQUEST IS PERSONAL ON PART OF HOOST, WE RECOMMEND THAT
AMBASSADOR ANSWER HIM IN BRIEF PERSONAL LETTER TO THE EFFECT
THAT THE EMBASSY IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN A MATTER
LIKE THIS UNLESS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS BY THE GOVERNMENT. IF IT IS CONFIRMED THAT REQUEST
IS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, THEN WE BELIEVE
WASHINGTON MUST PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHATEVER SOP HAS
BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR SUCH REQUESTS.
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PAGE 03 PARAMA 00727 171454Z

4. EMBASSY NATURALLY MAINTAINS FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE
RELATIONS WITH SURALCO, ALCOA'S WHOLLY-OWNED SURINAM
SUBSIDIARY. WHEN NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF ALCOA'S ALLEGEDLY
IMPROPER PAYMENTS ABROAD FIRST SURFACED, MANAGING DIRECTOR
BUSTION INTIMATED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT
ANY SUCH DOINGS BUT HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED HIS MANAGEMENT
IN PITTSBURG WHETHER HE NEED BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY DEVELOP-

MENTS THAT MIGHT COME UP, AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH NECESSITY. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION HAS TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN EMBASSY AND SURALCO. AMBASSADOR DOES NOT INTEND TO INFORM SURALCO OF THIS APPROACH BY HOST UNLESS DEPT SO INSTRUCTS.

5. BY CHANCE AMBASSADOR HAS SCHEDULED VISITS THIS WEEK TO SURALCOPLANTS AT PARANAM AND MOENGO FOR ROUTINE FAMILIARIZATION (RECENT ARRIVAL OF DRY SEASON NOW MAKING TRAVEL MORE REASONABLE). THESE WILL BE LOW KEY AND ATTRACT NO OUTSIDE NOTICE, AND AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO CARRY THROUGH WITH SCHEDULE.

6. THIS MESSAGE CAPTIONED STADIS AND EXDIS IN ABSENCE OF DEPT SOP FOR SIMILAR CASES. PLEASE INSTRUCT AS TO PREFERRED CAPTIONING, IF ANY.
ZURHELLEN

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